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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 4 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued during the period from 30 November to 2 December 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 30 November-2 December 1997

1. In the northern region 24 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 177 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Afak, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Ali al-Gharbi, Rifa'i and Rumaythah.

3. At 1237 hours on 25 November 1997 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

4. At 0755 hours on 30 November 1997 a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. At 1005 hours it headed towards Kuwaiti airspace.

5. At 1018 hours on 1 December 1997 a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. At 1250 hours it headed towards Kuwaiti airspace.

6. At 0910 hours on 2 December 1997 a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. At 1218 hours it headed towards Kuwaiti airspace.

7. At 1105 hours on 2 December 1997 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Najaf.